

White Deer Lake Camp, Living Room Cabin
Cyrus H. McCormick Experimental Forest
Champion vicinity
Marquette County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-30-E

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PHOTOGRAPHS AND PHOTOCOPIES

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

WHITE DEER LAKE CAMP,
LIVING ROOM CABIN

HABS No. MI-30-E

Physical History

No exact date of construction is available, but this building appears under construction in circa 1907 photos. Early photos only indicate a boat house and living room above. The billiard room was added sometime between 1907 and 1930. Memos in 1935 discuss rebuilding the entire chimney and foundation and the use of new stones for the fireplace. Plans dated 1941 cover closing in the porch north of billiard room, creating a bathroom and alcove, and adding a furnace room below the billiard room with a forced air furnace. New flooring was also installed in the boat house portion at this time. Foundation work along the north side of the boat house was indicated in 1958 plans.

Description

The 26 by 55 foot Living Room Cabin is a combination log and frame building constructed partly over the water with a double slip for boats at the water level. The rear portion of the ground floor was used for the storage of firewood.

The main floor consists of a screened porch over the boat slip, a 20 by 26 foot living room with a large native stone fireplace in the center of the building, and a 16 by 30 foot billiard room (with a lavatory) at the rear or west end of the cabin. A balcony is located along the south wall. The living room and porch are the log portions of the building and it appears the billiard room was added later.

The mortared native stone foundation and the chinked horizontal log walls along the sides of the boat slip are in good condition. The wood storage area toward the rear of the building contains much temporary bracing, indicating some past excessive deflection of the floor. Bracing has also been used under the beams in the boat slip area in an apparent attempt to level the floor of the porch and living room.

The living room, porch, and billiard room have a full height ceiling with small pole rafters spaced about 24 inches apart. These rafters are of a small diameter and had evidently deflected a great deal because of snow loads. As a consequence, a temporary framework of purlins with a post at each corner has been installed in both the living room and billiard room. Rolled roofing was used on the building.

For overview history, see White Deer Lake Camp, MI-30.

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